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CHALLENGE vs. CHICKEN

That headline capsules an important question put to U.S. voters by the Republican and Democratic platform planks on foreign policy.

The GOP plank calls for bold action in the cold war—

Goldwater Johnson

for challenging world Communism on every front. Presidential candidate Barry Goldwater is convinced that by this means Communism can be rolled back and eventually buried without getting us into a major war.

The Democratic plank dresses up in high-minded wordage the proposition that the basically chicken policy followed by the Kennedy-Johnson Administration in most of its encounters with Communism has won big cold-war victories, and will win more if President Johnson is elected for a full term.

So it is an urgent duty of each voter to decide, in plenty of time before Election Day (Nov. 3), which of these contentions he or she believes. The question goes to the survival of the United States as an independent nation, and therefore is of top importance to us all.

Meanwhile—

A DEFEATIST DOCUMENT

—about the South Viet Nam war has got into circulation via the Central Intelligence Agency.

One Willard Matthias, of the CIA's 12-member Board of National Estimates, says in a 45-page report to the agency that it may be impossible to win this war, and that in the end we may have to consent to neutralization as prescribed by French President Charles de Gaulle.

The Johnson Administration says this

Morale Masher screed does not voice White House foreign policy.

Why, then, was it written? Why, if there was or was not a good reason for its being written, did it get all this publicity?

It can only hurt the morale of South Viet Nameese anti-Reds, and of our "advisers" over there, and encourage the Hanoi, Peking and Moscow Reds to believe the White House is moving to pull the rug out from under Saigon.

We hope Sen. Goldwater, as a patriotic duty, will hammer on this matter until he forces a full explanation from the White House, the Pentagon, the CIA, and the State Department.